

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed on February 4, 2005, claims 1-6, 8-10, 14-18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the disclosure of the U.S. Patent of Chillson No. 3,540,311. In addition, claims 1-5, 8, 9, 13-17, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the disclosure of the U.S. Patent of Kish No. 5,472,386.

Claims 7, 11, 12, and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the subject matter of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 7, 11, and 19 have been amended into independent form herein. Claim 7 has been amended to include all of the subject matter of its base claim 1, and the subject matter of its intervening claims 2, 3, and 6. Claim 11 has been amended to include all of the subject matter of its base claim 1, and the subject matter of its intervening claims 2 and 3. Claim 19 has been amended to include all of the subject matter of its base claim 14, and the subject matter of its intervening claims 15 and 18. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7, 11 and 19 are allowable over the prior art.

In addition, claim 12 which depends from claim 11, and new claims 22, 23, and 24 which depend from the respective new independent claims 7, 11, and 19 are all allowable over the prior art.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to include all of the subject matter of claim 7, which had been indicated as being allowable in the previous Office Action. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the subject matter of claim 6. Thus, amended claim 1 recites the novel features of the two planet gears on each planet gear

shaft that mesh with the pair of ring gears being helical gears with opposite hand helical gear teeth. This feature of the invention is not disclosed or suggested in the Chillson or Kish references, and therefore claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2, 4, 8-10, and 13 all depend from amended claim 1 and therefore are also believed to be allowable over the prior art.

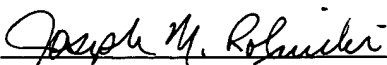
Claim 14 has been amended herein to include all of the subject matter of claim 11, which had been indicated as being allowable. In addition, claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3. Claim 14 now recites the novel features of the carrier supporting each of the planet gear shafts for rotation of the planet gear shafts relative to the planet gear carrier, and a single bearing assembly on each planet gear shaft mounting the planet gear shaft on the carrier. Because these features of the invention had previously been indicated as being allowable over the prior art Chillson and Kish references, it is believed that amended claim 14 is allowable over the prior art.

Claims 15-18, 20, and 21 all depend from claim 14 and are therefore also believed to be allowable over the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, the application is in condition for allowance and a favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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